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WEITERE INFORMATIONEN OK

An unending variety of topics

Wednesday, August 15, 2012

Authority and *ad hominem*

Argument from authority ("I'm the expert") goes hand-in-hand with the *ad hominem* ("you're not"). Each may be rebutted by the other, and the average quality as evidence of arguments from authority are about the same as the average quality as evidence of *ad hominem*. By necessity, these two kinds of evidence are the dominant forms of evidence that lead each of us as individuals to believe what we believe, since little important of what you believe comes from your own direct observation. Authority's investment costs are one good proxy measure for evaluating the value of such evidence. But contrast the law of the dominant paradigm. Perhaps the latter is superior for judging claims about the objective world, whereas investment costs are superior for judging the intersubjective.

Posted by Nick Szabo at 12:35 AM

2 comments:

josh said...

Did you ever reveal your theory about European exploration

11:18 AM

nick said...

Alas, my theory about exploration blew up in my face. Whatever happend is likely more subtle than I supposed, and to fathom it will probably require much more research, assuming enough documentation even exists to sort things out.

So you may see more about it, but alas no guarantees.

8:37 PM

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About Me

Nick Szabo

"A premier thinker about history, law and economics, and the lessons they have for security." -- Adam Shostack, Emergent Chaos

"Szabo comes out with these essays that leave me in awe." -- Brian Dunbar

"Reading material that is eclectic, challenging and endlessly fascinating." -- Sean McGrath, Propylon

"Like most blogs worth my attention, this blog is updated only infrequently. That is because the authors of blogs worth my attention only post when they have something to say that is true, relevant and not already known by their audience. Most of the human race does not have the skill to know when an idea has these three properties. The skill is particularly rare in the fields of politics and economics, which is why this blog is such a rare and valuable thing." -- Richard Hollerith

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